## Karabakh Separatists Support Russia's Recognition of Breakaway Ukraine Regions

Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>

Tue 3/1/2022 1:27 PM

To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>

Good afternoon,

BGR Group represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. As you are likely aware, Azerbaijan, and many others in the region, are watching cautiously as Russia's invasion of Ukraine proceeds. At a time when unification in the response to Russian aggression is truly vital, it is worrying that some in the Nagorno-Karabakh region are seeking to use Russia's aggression to push their own political goals.

Arayik Harutyunyan, leader of the Karabakh Armenians, has steadily embraced Russia throughout the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. More troubling, he has stated he wants to use Russia's recognition of two separatist breakaway regions in Ukraine as justification for his own secession movement. As you may be aware, Armenia currently chairs the Collective Security Treaty Organization, hosting Russian troops within their borders and recently deploying alongside Russian forces to repress protests in Kazakhstan earlier this year.

You can read more about Karabakh Armenians' dangerous embrace of Russia and signals of support for the Russian invasion in the <u>Armenian Mirror-Spectator</u>.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you would like to engage further with the Azerbaijani embassy about their efforts to confront the creep of malicious Russian influence in the region.

All my best, Mark

Mark J. Tavlarides

Principal, International

BGR Government Affairs, LLC

## BGR GROUP

WASHINGTON - AUSTIN - BEIJING - LONDON The Homer Building 11<sup>th</sup> Floor South 601 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 Direct: 202.661.6375 mtaylarides@bgrdc.com

www.bgrdc.com

Check us out on LinkedIn

Note: BGR Government Affairs, LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.